

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 7, as follows:

Cable stop blocks 232, 234 held fast to the cables 208, 210 may be provided at any location on cables 208, 210 to prevent the cables 208, 210 from traveling past a predetermined position. For example, pulling on the ankle strap 206 will pull the first 208 and second 210 cables connected to the toe strap 204 to the point where the cable stop blocks 232, 234 abut against corresponding stop features 222, 224 on the baseplate 202. At this point, any further pulling of the ankle strap 206 maintains tension on the cables 208, 210 and toe strap 204, but is ineffectual in pulling the cables 208, 210 past the predetermined position. Thus, after the predetermined amount of slack has been taken up on the cables 208, 210, the ankle strap 206 continues to be tightened about the instep portion of the boot, without additional travel of the cables 208, 210 beyond the predetermined position. Positions of cable stop blocks 232, 234 initially may be set to provide the desired amount of travel, and once set may be left at the initial position during all future use of the binding. It is to be appreciated that securement of toe strap 204 to boot may take place prematurely to stop blocks ~~218, 220~~ 232, 234 abutting against the stop features on baseplate 202.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 8, as follows:

One end of the ankle strap 206 is connected to the ends of the cables 208, 210 that are distally located from the toe strap 204. This end of the ankle strap 206 is not connected to the baseplate other than through the cables 208, 210. This is in contrast to conventional two-strap binding systems that always have at least one end of every strap fixed to the binding. The second end of the ankle strap 206 is connectable and releasable from the binding with the use of an ankle strap fastener. In use, a snowboard boot can be placed so that the sole of the boot rests

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on the baseplate upper surface. The toe portion of the boot is positioned in proximity and below the toe strap 204, and the ankle strap 206 is made to pass over the instep portion of the boot, and the free end of the ankle strap 206 is engaged to the binding via the ankle strap fastener. At this point, both the toe strap ~~[[104]]~~ 204 and the ankle strap ~~[[106]]~~ 206 can be loose. The strap ladder can be inserted into the pawl and ratchet mechanism on the ankle strap 206. As the ankle strap fastener is actuated, the cables 208, 210 are pulled in the direction toward the heel of the boot. At some point, either the toe strap 204 will abut against the boot or the cable stop blocks 232, 234 that are rigidly fixed to the cables ~~218, 220~~ 208, 210 will abut against the corresponding cable stop features on the baseplate 202. At this point, the cables reach the end of their travel. Once the cable stop blocks 232, 234 abut against the corresponding stop features on the baseplate 202, any further operation of the ankle strap fastener serves to tighten the ankle strap 206 against the instep portion of the boot, while neither increasing nor decreasing the tension that is already placed on the toe strap 204. Thus, by operating a single ankle strap fastener, both the toe strap 204 and the ankle strap 206 are caused to be secured against the snowboard boot.